

I am strongly opposed to the Franciscans determining the design of the park, which is being turned over to the public and will be maintained by the citizens of Montreal.

The Franciscans are sellers. The conditions of this sale should not commit the citizens of Montreal to honouring the religious beliefs of the Franciscans. When the property belonged to them, they were at liberty to mount a cross on it. If they sell the property, they lose the right to advertise the Roman Catholic religion on Boulevard René-Lévesque. The park should be secular; it should not be designed as an outdoor chapel to mediate on the Roman Catholic faith. The design explained to us at the public meeting runs counter to the values of modern Quebec. It is offensive to many Quebec citizens.

I strongly oppose any design that forces users of this park to honour a religious history that has no relevance to our society.